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Preface

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Author

Nelson, Barbara J

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Preface

Samuel Johnson wrote: “Nothing focuses the mind like the sight of the gallows.” California, like most state governments, is facing its worst state budget crisis since World War II. It is fitting that a number of the authors included in *2003 California Policy Options* have sought to focus their minds and ours on the roots, consequences, truths, myths, and trends related to the state budget crisis. This budget crisis, occurring in the post-Proposition 13 era, will shape a new future for California, with public policy options diminished to a point unknown to the state in the past century. This edition of *California Policy Options*, which also includes articles on policy topics as diverse as the challenges facing Latino children and the costs and benefits of subsidizing public transportation, sheds light on the complex world of policy making at a critical moment in California’s history.

In these fast-moving times, the purpose of the *California Policy Options* report of the UCLA School of Public Policy and Social Research, built on the UCLA Anderson Forecast, and now produced in conjunction with the Ralph and Goldy Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies, is to provide thoughtful research and analysis of policy issues affecting the state of California. The Forecast provides expert appraisal of how the California economy can be expected to perform over the next year. *Policy Options* articles offer academic research and analyses of a wide range of issues affecting the state.

This broad scope reflects not only California’s complexity, but also the interdisciplinary mission and expertise of the UCLA School of Public Policy and Social Research. Founded in 1994, the School is a leader in convening academic and policy leaders to solve policy problems across boundaries. In this light, we are pleased to present the 2003 edition of *California Policy Options*.

Barbara J. Nelson
Dean
UCLA School of Public Policy and Social Research